

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESOURCES**  
**CONGRESSMAN DARRELL E. ISSA, CHAIRMAN**



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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***Issa to Conclude Royalty Investigation with Interior  
IG Testimony on Missing Price Thresholds***  
***Full Committee Hearing Featuring Interior Officials to Follow Thursday***

**What:** Interior Department: A Culture of Managerial  
Irresponsibility and Lack of Accountability?

**When:** September 13, 2006 at 2:00 PM

**Where:** Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

The Subcommittee on Energy and Resources concludes its investigation regarding the absence of price thresholds in deepwater leases entered into between the Department of the Interior and various oil and gas companies during 1998 and 1999. The Government Accountability Office estimates that the lack of price thresholds will cost the US Government almost \$10 billion in lost revenue, of which almost \$2 billion has already been foregone.

Department of Interior Inspector General Earl Devaney will testify and provide results of the Office of the Inspector General's investigation into the Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service and the missing price thresholds. His testimony is expected to detail when Interior and MMS personnel learned of the lack of price thresholds, the individuals responsible for their absence, and what actions employees took once the omission was discovered.

In addition, the hearing will examine whether the lack of management oversight and accountability by the Department of the Interior and MMS is indicative of a wider institutional culture that pervades the Department and interferes with its mission and responsibility to the American people.

**Witnesses:**

Mr. Earl E. Devaney, Inspector General, Department of the Interior

**NOTE: This hearing will be followed by a full Government Reform Committee hearing on Thursday, September 14, 2006, at 10 a.m., in 2154 Rayburn, featuring testimony from:**

P. Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Johnnie Burton, Director, Minerals Management Service

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